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1 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD HEARING

2

3 SPECIAL ACTIONS 98-04 and 98-05

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5 U.S. FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE

6 Gordon Watson Conference Room

7 1101 East Tutor Road

8 Anchorage, Alaska

9

10 July 31, 1998 - 10:30 a.m.

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12 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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14 Mitch Demientieff, Chairman (Telephonically)

15 Fred Armstrong, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (98-05)

16 Richard Pospahala, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (98-04)

17 Curt Wilson, Bureau of Land Management

18 Paul Anderson, National Park Service

19 Niles Cesar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (Telephonically)

20 Jack Capp, U.S. Forest Service (Telephonically)

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22 Keith Goltz, Solicitor

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 10:30 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: We're going to carry on.  
I don't have an agenda in front of me.

MR. BOYD: Well, the agenda is fairly  
straightforward and I'll just go ahead and list the agenda and  
the order of presentations and make some introductions and  
inform you, Mr. Chair, of who's on line and who's in the room.

My name is Tom Boyd, I oversee the Office of  
Subsistence Management with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
We're meeting today to take up two Special Actions. That's  
Special Action 98-05, which is to open a caribou season in Unit  
9(D) and 10. Special Action 98-04, which proposes to open a  
sheep season in Unit 23 and to close Federal lands to  
non-subsistence uses.

Those are the two items that we have on the agenda for  
the public session this morning. When we finish those items we  
will go into a closed work session of the Board to discuss  
planning activities regarding the fisheries Final Rule. For  
the public meeting and the two Special Actions the agenda calls  
for dealing with the Special Action 98-05, which is the caribou  
in 9(D) and 10 first, followed by the Unit 23 issue.

The order of presentation this morning will be, first  
we will hear a staff analysis which will include a statement of  
the proposal. We will then be followed by comments from the  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game of the State of Alaska,  
followed by public comments, those wishing to testify, followed  
by Regional Advisory Council recommendations or information  
from the Regional Advisory Councils, followed by the Staff  
Committee recommendation and then Board deliberation.

Let me just pause and, hopefully I can remember  
everyone's name, but in the room you have myself and Keith  
Goltz from the Solicitor's office. Curt Wilson, who is  
representing the Board member for the Bureau of Land  
Management; Tom Eley, who is the Staff Committee representative  
for Fish and Wildlife; Fred Armstrong, who is the acting Board  
member for the Fish and Wildlife Service; Ida Hildebrand, Staff  
Committee for Bureau of Indian Affairs; Paul Anderson, Board  
member for the Park Service; Sandy Rabinowitch, Staff  
Committee, Park Service; Ken Thompson, Staff Committee, Forest  
Service; and Taylor Brelsford, staff to the Office of  
Subsistence Management.

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1 On line is Jack Capp, who is the Board member for the  
2 Forest Service; and Niles Cesar, Board member for the Bureau of  
3 Indian Affairs; and yourself, Mr. Chair. Also on line we have  
4 Elizabeth Andrews, Alaska Department of Fish and Game; Steve  
5 Peterson, ADF&G; Mr. Jake Jacobsen; Matt Wolf, who will be, I'm  
6 assuming, be testifying in the sheep issue later on; we have  
7 Gilda Shellikoff and Della Trumble and Vince Tutiakoff who are  
8 members of the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council on  
9 line. We have other staff members from other agencies, Lois  
10 Dolly-Molly with the National Park Service in Kotzebue; Susan  
11 Georgette and LeAnna Harris who are with the Alaska Department  
12 of Fish and Game. Also in Kotzebue, Mike Roy, Acting Refuge  
13 Manager of the Izembek Refuge and his staff, Ray Portwood. And  
14 I think I've covered all then names.

15  
16 And we're ready to go when you are, Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, okay, let's go.  
19 Let's call to order and.....

20  
21 MR. BOYD: Okay. Robert Willis is here to  
22 present the staff report for the Unit 9(D) caribou issue.

23  
24 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Special  
25 Action 98-05 was submitted by the Izembek National Wildlife  
26 Refuge and it would establish a caribou season, a harvest limit  
27 on Federal lands in Unit 9(D) and that portion of Unit 10 on  
28 Unimak Island for the communities of King Cove, Nelson Lagoon,  
29 False Pass, Sand Point and Cold Bay.

30  
31 The Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd went into a  
32 decline in the early 1980s which continued well into the '90s.  
33 The numbers fell to a point that hunting by non-subsistence  
34 hunters was closed by the State in 1991. Two years later,  
35 1993, as the decline continued, the numbers fell below 2,500,  
36 which was the minimum required for hunting in the Management  
37 Plan for that herd and Federal lands were subsequently closed  
38 to non-subsistence hunting.

39  
40 These closures have allowed the herd to rebuild to some  
41 degree. Our survey in the winter of 1997 revealed 3,260  
42 animals, which was sufficient to allow a limited hunt to occur  
43 under the Management Plan. For that year, allocated a total of  
44 160 permits for bull caribou, 100 on the mainland or Unit 9(D)  
45 portion and 60 on Unimak Island. The portion of the herd on  
46 Unimak Island totaled approximately 600 animals.

47  
48 We had approximately 50 animals taken, we know of 43  
49 animals that were taken. Our reporting rate was somewhat low,  
50 we did have some verbal reports of additional animals beyond

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1 the number of permits that we got back, but we think the total  
2 harvest probably out of the 160 permits was not more than 50  
3 animals.

4  
5 We surveyed the population once again in February of  
6 1998 and found on the mainland 3,127 animals, which is within  
7 four percent of the number found in 1997. This gave us  
8 considerable confidence that our count in 1997 was accurate.  
9 Severe winter weather in 1998 prevented a survey on Unimak  
10 Island. Also in July of 1998 the refuge completed a post  
11 calving aggregation count which revealed a total of 21 percent  
12 of calves in the population. This is very encouraging. That  
13 percentage or higher has been found only three times in the  
14 last 24 years, so it indicates to us that possibly the herd is  
15 coming back and will continue to grow in size.

16  
17 Based on the composition counts from 1997 and our 1998  
18 winter surveys, and considering the number of animals harvested  
19 in 1997-98, they've recommended a similar hunt be held in  
20 1998-99, this would be expanded somewhat in that it would be a  
21 minimum of 125 permits issued for the mainland portion of the  
22 herd and again 60 permits for the Unimak Island portion. There  
23 would be an additional 50 permits made available for the  
24 mainland portion of the herd, depending on the composition  
25 counts which will be conducted in October of 1998. These  
26 counts are the ones we depend on to tell us the bull:cow ratio.  
27 And if there is sufficient bulls in the population to allow it,  
28 then some additional permits could be made available at that  
29 time.

30  
31 Currently the proposal is to establish a caribou season  
32 in Units 9(D) and 10, extending from August 1, 1998 to March  
33 31, 1999, 125 bull caribou permits would be issued for the  
34 mainland or Unit 9(D) portion of the herd using the following  
35 formula: Cold Bay would receive 18 permits; Elfin Lagoon, 18  
36 permits; King Cove, 40 permits; Sand Point, 40 permits; False  
37 Pass, 9 permits. The additional 50 permits or up to 50 permits  
38 may be issued to those communities in the same ratio based on  
39 the October bull:cow ratios.

40  
41 Sixty bull caribou permits would be issued for Unimak  
42 Island using the following formula: False Pass would receive  
43 50 permits; King Cove, 5 permits; and Sand Point, 5 permits.  
44 I'd like to point out that we don't consider these to be  
45 absolute numbers. Last year we had an opportunity to transfer  
46 some permits, one community to another, when there were some  
47 unused permits in one community. The other community had to  
48 use all of its permits and still wanted to take some additional  
49 animals. This year we had expressed to us that Sand Point may  
50 prefer to hunt on Unimak Island rather than on the mainland.

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1 They have far more permits on the mainland than on Unimak so  
2 there's an opportunity there to exchange some permits between  
3 communities. We'd like to leave that option open to the  
4 communities and the refuge working together to determine  
5 whether or not to reallocate any of the permits.

6  
7 I would also add that one item which was not included  
8 in the proposal this year was inadvertently left off because it  
9 was included last year as a designated hunter option. The  
10 designated hunter option for last year allowed one hunter to  
11 harvest up to four bag limits of caribou and have those in his  
12 possession, that would be a total of four caribou per  
13 designated hunter. The hunters receiving permits would be  
14 selected, again, by the communities, their names would be  
15 submitted to the refuge and the refuge would then provide  
16 permits to these individuals.

17  
18 That concludes the staff analysis.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Let me see,  
21 I don't -- Tom, what's next here?

22  
23 MR. BOYD: ADF&G, sir.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead.

26  
27 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, this is  
28 Elizabeth Andrews, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It's my  
29 understanding that this is a Special Action Request from the  
30 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge; is that correct?

31  
32 MR. WILLIS: That's correct.

33  
34 MR. BOYD: That's correct.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: That's correct.

37  
38 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The  
39 Department appreciates having had the chance to review the  
40 staff analysis, we only received it roughly a week ago, for a  
41 hunt that is supposed to open tomorrow. We do have a concern  
42 about whether, in fact, there are extenuating circumstances for  
43 the Special Action Request. And by saying that what I mean is  
44 that we think it probably would have been more appropriate to  
45 take this up at the Board meeting that you had last May. It  
46 looks like much of the information that is before you was  
47 available at that time with the winter population after (phone  
48 cut out) granted that the determination and the percentage of  
49 calves wasn't determined until just in the last couple of  
50 weeks.

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1           We would prefer to see this go through a regular  
2 process that we certainly would have more time to review the  
3 proposal as would the public. And also it would give us some  
4 more time to think of what might be some options that would  
5 provide subsistence opportunities certainly on the Federal  
6 public lands, as being proposed here, but also on State and  
7 private land.

8  
9           So I just wanted to make that point. We don't object  
10 to the fact that there appears to be a surplus of animals that  
11 can be taken. We agree with the amount that are identified  
12 that are surplus and can be taken. The number of permits  
13 assumes that there will be 100 percent harvest, with all of  
14 these animals being taken on Federal public lands, since that's  
15 the only place that this regulation would apply to.

16  
17           We do know that there are communities that are  
18 interested in hunting on State and private lands in that area  
19 and that there still remains a question as to whether all of  
20 the surplus animals would indeed be taken on the Federal public  
21 lands and whether or not there might be some allocation that is  
22 left that could be taken on State land. And we just really  
23 haven't had enough time to consider that, having just gotten  
24 this Special Action Request on July 22nd.

25  
26           So that pretty much summarizes our comments. We do  
27 have the concern about this not having come up earlier and  
28 haven't give us really an opportunity to look at what other  
29 options might be available for also determining whether there  
30 might be some allocation that could be taken on State lands.

31  
32           That's all I have, Mr. Chairman, and thank you again.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Is there any  
35 public testimony?

36  
37                   MR. WOLF: Yes, this is Matt Wolf.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead.

40  
41                   MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to  
42 ask Elizabeth and the ADF&G and Mike Roy from the Izembek  
43 Refuge if they have considered a sport hunting season in Unit  
44 9(D) for non-residents and residents of Alaska?

45  
46                   MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, this is Elizabeth  
47 Andrews, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead.

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1 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, one thing looking  
2 forward that we certainly appreciate is some of the cooperative  
3 projects that are outlined for this coming season between the  
4 Department of Fish and Game and the Izembek National Refuge  
5 staff. We do have a joint project coming up to collar and  
6 place satellite collars on animals, to do composition surveys  
7 and we have a cooperative effort to do a calf mortality study  
8 in the coming year. And we appreciate and are looking forward  
9 to this opportunity to work together to get more information.

10  
11 At this time the State does not have a hunt on State  
12 and private lands in that area. We look forward to getting  
13 some of this -- more of this information, but we also look to  
14 our local Fish and Game Advisory Committees to submit proposals  
15 to the Board of Game. This upcoming year in the cycle this  
16 region will be open for proposals from the public and typically  
17 the Department looks to the local Advisory Committees to talk  
18 to the area biologist and for the Committees to submit  
19 proposals for what their interested in seeing for local hunts  
20 in that area.

21  
22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead, Matt.

25  
26 MR. WOLF: Yes, I would like to reiterate that  
27 question to Mike Roy from Izembek, if any consideration has  
28 been given to sport hunting on the Federal portion of Unit  
29 9(D)?

30  
31 MR. ROY: Yes, sir, Mr. Wolf, this is Mike Roy.  
32 I'd like to also clarify from the introductions, I'm the  
33 wildlife biologist here at Izembek, Ray Portwood is the Acting  
34 Refuge Manager, he's here with me as well.

35  
36 We have visited with folks at ADF&G, with Dick Sellers,  
37 the regional wildlife manager and have discussed the idea of  
38 sport hunting as we discussed earlier in the year, as we were  
39 visiting with him about this year's subsistence harvest. From  
40 the standpoint of the Refuge, and if we look at the Southern  
41 Alaska Peninsula Management Plan, which has been in place for  
42 about four years now, a joint plan between the State and the  
43 Fish and Wildlife Service, we see that a couple of gates that  
44 have to be crossed, we need 2,500 animals to authorize any  
45 hunt. And then at the other end if we have 3,500 animals or  
46 more, we are allowed to consider a cow harvest.

47  
48 Now with the population right smack in the middle of  
49 that and, perhaps, towards the high end of that, we're getting  
50 to the point that in the coming years we could be considering,

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1 by our Management Plan, a cow harvest. And from our  
2 perspective that would also suggest that we might be able to  
3 consider sport harvest as well. I would defer to our staff,  
4 our Fish and Wildlife staff in Subsistence, there in the room,  
5 as far as the Fish and Wildlife Service's mandate. I know that  
6 we do have responsibilities to, first, meet our -- satisfy  
7 subsistence needs and I guess I would just defer to our folks  
8 in the Subsistence Branch as to how we, procedurally, balance  
9 those two hunts.

10  
11 Biologically, I think we're at the point that we can  
12 examine that and I also agree with Ms. Andrews from the State  
13 that certainly we could look at hunts that take place both on  
14 Federal land and on State and private land.

15  
16 MR. WOLF: Yes, thank you, Mike. I have no  
17 further questions at this time.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Is there any other  
20 additional public testimony?

21  
22 MR. BOYD: We do have three members of the  
23 Regional Advisory Council on line, I'll just insert, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: I understand that, thank  
26 you. Is there any additional public testimony?

27  
28 (No audible response)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Regional Council  
31 comments.

32  
33 MS. TRUMBLE: This is Della Trumble in King  
34 Cove. First of all, I think, I'd like to pass on that I've  
35 been talking to a lot of the various communities, they're  
36 pleased with staff recommendations. And we're hoping to have a  
37 more successful hunt this year. The weather did not allow us  
38 to do that last year. And with an opening in August that will  
39 help a lot.

40  
41 The concerns that we came up with is the timing of  
42 these surveys, normally they're done in October to December,  
43 last year they did not get complete until the very end of  
44 February going into the first of March. The deadline on the  
45 caribou hunt was March 31st. If we are going to be allowed  
46 another 50 caribou the concern is if the survey is done late  
47 that the people are not going to have time, at that time of the  
48 year, to try to harvest the additional caribou.

49  
50 The other thing that comes up is we know the importance



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1 of the consistency in this reporting on the caribou harvest and  
2 so I think that maybe the people can get their permits from the  
3 refuge itself, but we thought the possibility of having the  
4 communities go ahead get these permits out, but hold them and  
5 have these hunters report directly to where they're being  
6 issued so they can call them directly and find out if their  
7 caribou has been harvested. The problem we had, I know,  
8 control the number the reporting parts of the report where  
9 people had misplaced them.

10  
11 The other thing that came up is the importance of  
12 coordinating these surveys with the State and Federal and  
13 residential person. I think it's been something that's been  
14 brought up the last year and a half and it seems to be lacking  
15 in coordinating the surveys so all three entities can work  
16 together and all working on the same figure and hopefully going  
17 forward with all this, at some point in time if it does go  
18 through, the opening for a State hunt, which would help in our  
19 areas because of the village corporation lands being closer to  
20 home.

21  
22 And I believe that is all I have at this time.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Additional comments?

25  
26 MS. SHELLIKOFF: This is Gilda Shellikoff in  
27 False Pass. The main comment I have is regarding the permits  
28 on Unimak Island. You know, if it was based on the numbers  
29 last year if it would be possible to get an opening date sooner  
30 than October. The reason for this, last year people every nice  
31 day they had they went in their skiffs from here, but they  
32 couldn't find any caribou on the island because they were  
33 further west. And right now people have their boats in the  
34 water, they're fishing up around Uruia Bay, in that area, and  
35 they have a chance to possibly get caribou if it is opened.  
36 And by October all the local boats are going to be put away  
37 because we have just small boats around here. And so, you  
38 know, I was hoping the Board would consider that.

39  
40 And the other thing is the reporting. Last year was  
41 the first time any of the villages did anything like this and I  
42 think it's a learning experience. And like Della, I agree that  
43 the Fish and Wildlife should work with the communities and  
44 figure out a way to have the reporting come from the community  
45 because I think (indiscernible) them is not going do any good  
46 because in the village, especially in the small village, you  
47 know, we all who know who got caribou and we can call these  
48 people and say "Hey, you got to do your report."

49 And those are basically my comments.

50

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1 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is Vince  
2 Tutiakoff, I'm the Co-Chairman for Kodiak/Aleutians, presently  
3 now at Adak. I'd like to thank the Board for consideration for  
4 this continued hunt on Area 9(D) and 10. I support the two  
5 comments from two Board members. I believe that what (phone  
6 cut out) counting of the caribou needs to be (phone cut out)  
7 and maybe taken under consideration by the three members who  
8 are appointed to distribute the permits to the communities.  
9 And I would encourage those to be more of a local type  
10 reporting system and then refer that back to the people in Cold  
11 Bay.

12  
13 I had a question for possibly Robert Willis in regards  
14 to the discussion on staff analysis. Robert, you there?

15  
16 MR. WILLIS: I'm here, go ahead, Vince.

17  
18 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yes. On your report that I've  
19 received here and I've got it -- I believe it's page four I've  
20 got it at. It says "Based on a 1997 composition counts and  
21 1998 winter surveys", find that?

22  
23 MR. WILLIS: Yes.

24  
25 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay. The reported and  
26 estimated unreported 1997-98 harvest. I have a concern that a  
27 statement like that is made without figures and regards to your  
28 staff analysis. You have some unreported 1997-98 harvest then  
29 you ought to put in the number for that or else put a basis for  
30 how you come up with such a statement. And the estimated  
31 natural mortality, is it on a nine point system? And, you  
32 know, we need to know this before you make those estimated  
33 natural mortality rates. I'm have a concern that that's being  
34 made because it's just an estimated figure and what figure are  
35 you using?

36  
37 MR. WILLIS: The Refuge did some extensive  
38 calculations on that, Vince, and I didn't include all that in  
39 the staff analysis, I didn't think it was necessary. If you'd  
40 like a more extensive discussion of how the Refuge calculated  
41 that, we have both Mike and Roy on line and perhaps I could  
42 better turn that over to them for an explanation, if you'd like  
43 to have it?

44  
45 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, I think it's important,  
46 especially if we're doing a kind of a review (phone cut out)  
47 those figures should be made available. It's supporting a hunt  
48 that should continue, I think that the herd itself is growing,  
49 it's becoming very healthy compared to four or five years ago  
50 and I just had a concern that this comment is made without

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1 having a figure in there or how they came to that conclusion of  
2 unreported and harvests.

3  
4 MR. WILLIS: Okay. Mike, would you mind  
5 running through your calculations for Vince. I guess the  
6 reference to an unreported harvest, since we had only 25  
7 animals reported harvested from the mainland portion by the  
8 harvest report form and six animals on Unimak and in our  
9 discussions with the Refuge they felt that there were some  
10 additional animals taken that were not reported and made an  
11 estimate that it did not exceed 50, and that was about the best  
12 we could do. There were some extensive calculations that went  
13 into determining the number of surplus animals and I have that  
14 here in front of me, but I think I'll turn it over to Mike  
15 since he did the calculations and let him lay it out for you.

16  
17 Mike, would you mind?

18  
19 MR. ROY: Certainly, Robert. Mr. Chairman, I  
20 can just very briefly go through our logic here and also  
21 clarify the different surveys we do, which may help. I believe  
22 a question that Della Trumble had, it'll clarify one of her  
23 concerns regarding finding of surveys.

24  
25 We conducted this year's total population count, which  
26 is an annual count in February, that's generally considered a  
27 mid-winter count. I mean it's based on snow conditions so it  
28 does fluctuate. We already do calf composition counts in --  
29 both in June and in October. We, of course, do not have  
30 October '98 data, so we used October '97 data for our calculus,  
31 our calves at that time were 12 percent of the herd.

32  
33 We also do bull:cow ratios in October of each year. In  
34 October '97 we had approximately 42 bulls per 100 cows, which  
35 is much higher than we've seen for many years here in this  
36 herd. In just multiplying out the percentage of adults in the  
37 herd and the percentage of bulls we arrived at a figure of the  
38 number of adult bulls, a minimum number of adult bulls in the  
39 herd. We took that number and subtracted from it the baseline  
40 amount of adult bulls that we must have in the herd in order to  
41 have the bull:cow ratio -- minimum bull:cow ratio that the  
42 Joint Management Plan recommended.

43  
44 So between the amount of bulls we have and the amount  
45 -- the minimum amount that we're required to have under the  
46 Management Plan, we came out with a set of uncorrected percent  
47 of adult bulls in the herd. We then corrected that for what we  
48 consider a general figure for adult survival, which is 90  
49 percent or .9 on an annual basis and we corrected it for  
50 harvest since our last composition count, since the last time

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1 we counted bulls versus cows.

2

3 And to clarify that unreported -- the term "unreported  
4 harvest", that in no means illegal harvest. We were simply  
5 referring to the fact that in doing that this calculus a month  
6 or two ago, we did not yet have reports back from several of  
7 the communities from last year's hunt. And I believe we still  
8 don't have all of that information. So at that time we made an  
9 assumption that approximately 50 animals had been taken during  
10 the hunt, even though we only had records of 25 at that time.  
11 So that where the 50 animals for this comes from.

12

13 We multiply all of these out we came out with a  
14 harvestable surplus in the herd of 185 and because there is  
15 some errors in over-winter survival we might have had, we just  
16 simply reduced -- took 10 animals off of that for a total of  
17 175 or a harvestable surplus of bulls in the herd.

18

19 Now, as part of that I did want to reiterate that the  
20 two primary measures that we used on this herd of the total  
21 population count, which is in mid-winter, and the fall  
22 composition count, which measured both bulls, cows and calves.  
23 That is done in October. And particularly for Della Trumble's  
24 information, that is the survey we're referring to that we  
25 would base our decision to add permits for this current season.  
26 I mean, it is not (phone cut out) count, this is the helicopter  
27 survey that will be done in October, so it -- in fact, it has  
28 to be done in October or it's not particularly valid. So there  
29 should be ample time to authorize permits by, perhaps, November  
30 1 that would be available throughout the remaining, what, five  
31 months of the season.

32

33 I hope this -- I'll stop there and take any other  
34 questions if I've confused anyone. Thank you.

35

36 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Thank you, Mike. That clears  
37 it up, makes it more -- when I read this I can understand it  
38 better.

39

40 And in regards to the (phone cut out and music)  
41 transfer of permit to -- within community to community, I  
42 support that and most of the communities do share when it --  
43 you know, depending on where the herd is located and where  
44 they're at a specific time.

45

46 That's all I had, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for  
47 allowing us to (phone cut out).

48

49 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Is there any  
50 additional Regional Council comment?

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1 MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, we have Melvin Smith in  
2 the room who wishes to comment. He continues to be a member of  
3 the Council.

4  
5 MR. SMITH: Thank you. This is Melvin Smith  
6 and I'd like to say I support this hunt and that's the only  
7 comment I have to make since I didn't get a chance to review  
8 the information, just got it a short time ago there. And I'd  
9 like to reiterate Gilda's comment on the earlier the season the  
10 better, while the fishing boats are still in the water and we  
11 have access to the hunting grounds.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, thank you. Are  
16 there any additional Regional Council comments?

17  
18 (No audible reply)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Staff Committee.

21  
22 MR. BOYD: Yes, Mr. Chair, the Staff Committee  
23 recommends adopting the Special Action as stated. I want to  
24 mention that the Staff Committee did not discuss specifically  
25 the designated hunter option, however, that was part of last  
26 year's hunt and I think the focus of the Staff Committee's  
27 discussion was on continuing the hunt and on increasing the  
28 harvest limit to 125 with an additional 50 permits issued  
29 following the fall of 1998 bull:cow ratio -- or survey to  
30 determine the bull:cow ratio.

31  
32 The justification, Mr. Chair, is that the '97 fall  
33 composition counts and the '98 winter surveys indicate that  
34 this herd contains sufficient animals to allow a limited  
35 harvest as specified in the Management Plan. The surveys  
36 indicate a surplus of bulls in the population sufficient to  
37 allow a harvest of a small number of bulls from the mainland  
38 and from the Unimak Island portion of the herd. The  
39 post-calving aggregation survey indicates that productivity of  
40 the herd is improving, with 21 percent calves observed in the  
41 index portion of the herd. Currently available data suggests a  
42 season can be initiated with a quota of 125 permits issued for  
43 the mainland portion of the herd and 60 permits for the Unimak  
44 Island portion, with an additional 50 permits to be made  
45 available for the mainland portion if the fall '98 bull:cow  
46 ratio is adequate. This would allow a maximum harvest of 175  
47 bulls for the mainland portion of the herd.

48  
49 That concludes the Staff Committee report, Mr. Chair.

50

00014

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, Board  
2 deliberation. Any comments from the Board?

3  
4 MR. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

7  
8 MR. ARMSTRONG: This is Fred, I'm prepared to  
9 make a motion.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead.

12  
13 MR. ARMSTRONG: I move that we adopt Special  
14 Action 98-05 consistent with Regional Council and Staff  
15 Committee recommendations with the inclusion of the designated  
16 hunter option.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: There is a motion, is  
19 there a second?

20  
21 MR. WILSON: Second.

22  
23 MR. BOYD: That was Mr. Wilson.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Discussion?  
26 (No audible reply)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Hearing none, we're  
29 ready for a vote. All those in favor of the motion please  
30 signify by saying aye.

31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed same sign.

35  
36 (No opposing responses)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motions carries.

39  
40 Okay, Special Action 98-04. Staff analysis.

41  
42 MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, if I might break in a  
43 second, this is Tom. We're moving forward to the next item and  
44 I know that the Regional Council members from Kodiak/Aleutians  
45 are going off line, and if they're still on line, I guess we  
46 could express appreciation for their participation and the  
47 thoughtful comments that they made today.

48  
49 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair,  
50 this if Vince Tutiakoff, I'll be signing off. Thank you.

00015

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Thank you.

2  
3 MR. BOYD: Okay. I'm hearing some beeps and I  
4 don't know what that means, Mr. Chair, maybe we could pause and  
5 check. I don't know if that's people going off or people  
6 coming on. I would like to ask if there's anyone new that's  
7 joining the teleconference?

8  
9 MR. HOLT: Yeah, this is Robb Holt with the  
10 Alaska Professional Hunters Association.

11  
12 MR. BOYD: Robb Holt. Is there anyone else  
13 that's been joining since we started the teleconference?

14  
15 (No audible responses)

16  
17 MR. BOYD: Mr. Holt, will you be wishing to  
18 testify today?

19  
20 MR. HOLT: I had a very late notice that you  
21 were going to work on proposals that concerned some sheep  
22 permits in Unit 23, and basically I just wanted to listen in  
23 and I may want to interject some comment, but basically I just  
24 want to hear what you guys are doing there.

25  
26 MR. BOYD: Okay. Is there anyone else that's  
27 joined us on teleconference?

28  
29 (No audible responses)

30  
31 MR. BOYD: I think we're ready to go,  
32 Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.

35  
36 MR. BOYD: I will start and introduce Donna  
37 Dewhurst of my staff and Rachel Mason is joining her.

38  
39 MS. DEWHURST: Staff analysis for Special  
40 Action 98-04 concerns sheep harvest in Unit 23 in Southwestern  
41 26 (A). I do want to point out that very original proposal  
42 didn't include 26(A), but that was just an oversight that was  
43 quickly corrected and when the Regional Council reconsidered  
44 it, it was included.

45  
46 This involves sheep harvest on Federal public lands in  
47 those areas. The proposal request for harvest August 1 through  
48 April 1. A harvest would be for one ram, full curl or larger,  
49 with a maximum or cap of 20 rams harvested in both the DeLong  
50 and Baird Mountains.

00016

1           The history on this, the harvest has been -- the  
2 numbers were considered to have peaked in the mid-1980s and  
3 started declining around the end of 1980s, beginning of 1990s.  
4 The Baird Mountains were closed by both State and Federal  
5 regulation around 1991 and have been closed since then. The  
6 DeLongs started having seasonal restrictions put on them in  
7 1993 and then were closed in 1995. So both seasons have been  
8 closed for a fair amount of time due to reduction, primarily,  
9 in lambs produced. There were a series of bad winters plus  
10 increased predation that just the lamb numbers, basically,  
11 weren't happening.

12  
13           Starting basically with just the past couple of years,  
14 around 1997, surveys started to show a dramatic increase in the  
15 lamb production and overall numbers, part of which was thought  
16 to be immigration from adjacent areas. That prompted the State  
17 to start.....

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Where's the music coming  
20 from?

21  
22                   MR. BOYD: Let's pause. There's someone on  
23 line that has music in the background. Would you please check  
24 that and turn it off, I think it's disrupting our ability to  
25 hear.

26  
27                   MS. DEWHURST: I'll back up. Based on 1997  
28 counts -- the counts were up, but they weren't up to the  
29 original 1980s level, but they were up. They were around the  
30 point when the crash started, which would have been around  
31 1989-1990 time. But based on just an increase, mainly, in the  
32 lamb production the State and Federal start talking with the  
33 local people and start talking about the possibility of  
34 reopening a hunt. The talk became more formalized in October  
35 of last year at the Game Board meeting. ADF&G did put forth a  
36 proposal.

37  
38           And subsequent to that the harvest zones were  
39 redescribed, tentative harvest was set up and it was considered  
40 tentative on future counts and local interest. A tentative  
41 harvest would go for subsistence -- the amount needed for  
42 subsistence first, which would involve a Tier I hunt, and set  
43 that up as being zero to nine animals in the DeLongs and 18 to  
44 47 in the Bairds.

45  
46           And then once those needs were met then it would roll  
47 over into a drawing hunt. And based on that it was felt that  
48 there was a harvestable surplus of 20 animals in each  
49 respective mountain range. That would mean in the Bairds they  
50 would all be Tier I and in the DeLongs nine of the animals



00017

1 would be Tier I and then 11 animals would roll over into a  
2 drawing hunt. But this was all tentative.

3  
4 And then basically some time passed and this summer  
5 there was a meeting in June talking about that, but everybody  
6 wanted to wait until the July -- the new counts were out.  
7 Mid-July the new counts were out, 1998 counts, basically  
8 confirmed 1997 numbers, which was an increase, and still showed  
9 good lamb production and everybody felt like the potential for  
10 a hunt was a go at that point.

11  
12 There was another meeting in July with members of our  
13 Regional Advisory Council members, of the Fish and Game  
14 Advisory Committee and other local interested parties. And  
15 there was a real effort to bring people in from Point Hope and  
16 Point Lay and other communities, surrounding communities that  
17 were interested, so it was a pretty big joint effort. At that  
18 meeting everybody pretty much agrees that there is a  
19 harvestable surplus of 20 animals.

20  
21 There was concern, though, that in the age structure,  
22 because there's a series of four or five years where no lamb,  
23 virtually no lambs were produced, there's a gap in the age  
24 structure. And that there's the middle aged animals, the  
25 three, four, five, six year olds, there aren't very many of  
26 them. There's lots of real young ones and lots of older ones.  
27 So based on that, everybody kind of backed off and instead of  
28 saying 20 sheep, it was decided to be conservative the harvest  
29 should be 20 full curl or larger rams. It was felt there was  
30 an adequate surplus of these older rams and that taking those  
31 animals wouldn't impact any future growth or continued growth  
32 of the population.

33  
34 So everybody was in agreement, pretty much, on that  
35 issue and that it should be 20 full curl rams out of each  
36 population. So then the issue becomes who gets to take the  
37 animals. And this really isn't a biological issue. The  
38 biology of it is that the rams can be taken and that most of  
39 these lands, in both mountain ranges, are Federal public lands.

40  
41 And with that I'll turn it over to talk about the issue  
42 of customary and traditional.

43  
44 MS. MASON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are  
45 10 communities which presently have a positive C&T for sheep in  
46 Unit 23. Nine of them are in Unit 23 and then Point Lay in  
47 Unit 26(A) also has a positive C&T there. As for the small  
48 portion Unit 26(A) of the DeLongs, the people with the positive  
49 C&T there are all the residents of Unit 26, plus residents of  
50 Point Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass.

00018

1 Sheep harvest by local residents in Unit 23 have been  
2 predominantly in the Baird Mountains and they've been  
3 predominantly by residents of Noatak and Kotzebue. The total  
4 annual subsistence harvest for the Baird Mountains, based  
5 primarily on Georgette and Loon's 1991 study, ranges from 18 to  
6 47. And the estimated harvest for the DeLong Mountains is  
7 considerably less, their estimate was between zero and nine.  
8 And, historically, sheep were likely harvested in much greater  
9 numbers than they have been in recent years.

10  
11 Georgette and Loon's study expressed the estimated  
12 harvest for communities as a range, in order to accommodate  
13 normally fluctuating conditions. At a public hearing that was  
14 held in Kotzebue on July 20th, after much discussion and  
15 debate, the local opinion was to support combining the  
16 estimated harvests for the Baird and DeLong Mountains because  
17 local people felt that there would be hunters who had usually  
18 gone to the Bairds who had traveled to the DeLongs to take  
19 sheep, more than might do so otherwise.

20  
21 So the total estimated range of harvest would be  
22 between 20 and 56. And then with an additional estimated  
23 harvest of two from the community of Point Lay that number  
24 could be brought to 58.

25  
26 The unknown element in this analysis is what happens if  
27 a sheep isn't as opened with a limit of 20 in each of the  
28 mountain ranges, with 10 C&T communities which have not been  
29 allowed to harvest for seven years. Under normal circumstances  
30 not every hunter would hunt every year, but since the season  
31 has been closed for seven years and there is a good possibility  
32 that it won't be opened for long, perhaps more hunters will be  
33 interested in sheep hunting than they would be otherwise.

34  
35 Since the recommended harvest is an equal harvest of 20  
36 in each mountain range, it is feasible to assume that  
37 particularly the Noatak and Kotzebue hunters might shift their  
38 hunting to the DeLong Mountains and more hunters may choose to  
39 hunt than have done so in the past.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

44  
45 MR. BOYD: We go to ADF&G next.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: State comments.

48  
49 MS. ANDREWS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
50 This Elizabeth Andrews, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

00019

1 We, again, appreciate the opportunity to participate in the  
2 discussion for the management of these sheep populations on  
3 Federal public lands. I first want to assure the Board and  
4 members of the public and the Council that the Department will  
5 in no way be jeopardizing the sheep populations in the Bairds  
6 and the DeLongs. Our staff has worked many years with local  
7 residents in this area to rebuild those sheep populations so  
8 that there can be hunts in the future and perhaps imminently.

9  
10 We'll continue to manage for conservation of these  
11 sheep populations, but unfortunately that means that the  
12 allocation that's being proposed would result in a need for the  
13 Department to close hunting on State and private lands for  
14 subsistence and other uses.

15  
16 Mr. Chairman, I do have some background information  
17 that I'd like to mention that hasn't been presented in the  
18 staff analysis. I know that some people have gleaned this from  
19 the meetings in the last eight days or so and I bring these  
20 comments forward and I'll try not to make them too lengthy,  
21 because there have been a number of questions and comments that  
22 were raised at public meetings, at the Council meetings and at  
23 other meetings in the past, well, roughly two weeks.

24  
25 Again, it was another situation where we feel that this  
26 could have come up at the Federal Board meeting in May, here we  
27 are the last two weeks, and now a day before the proposed hunt,  
28 still trying to piece together all the information that's been  
29 out to the public in the last year regarding these sheep  
30 populations, Board of Game discussion and actions, public  
31 comment and so forth. And we're at a situation where there's  
32 been a proposal and the Board is now considering a Special  
33 Action. So I'm not quite sure that these are extenuating  
34 circumstances again.

35  
36 But I'd like to begin by saying that over a year ago  
37 the Board of Game and the Department, the process that we have  
38 began, that is, the Department again had been working with the  
39 local public and had been rebuilding those pop -- managing  
40 those populations to rebuild them and given the Board of Game  
41 cycle that takes up proposals for an area every two years.  
42 Last August a proposal had to be put in before the Board of  
43 Game if there was any anticipation that there could be a sheep  
44 hunt on either of these populations.

45  
46 And with that the Department developed a conceptual  
47 proposal and submitted it so that it could be considered in the  
48 event that there was a harvestable surplus that could be taken  
49 this year or next year or at least prior to the year 2000 when  
50 the Board would next be revisiting this region. And with that

00020

1 the area staff met with local Advisory Committees and other  
2 members of the public, talked about various hunt structures,  
3 consistent with the State's Subsistence Law, and discussed the  
4 biological information, the customary and traditional use  
5 patterns and so forth.

6  
7 The Board of Game decided to hold their meeting in Nome  
8 to enhance public involvement from the local area, as well as  
9 from Federal agency staff in those areas, recognizing that  
10 there is a lot of Federal public lands in the region, and had  
11 the meeting in Nome last October. At that time the Board of  
12 Game identified a committee that met with the public and  
13 brought back to discuss the proposed hunt structure, discuss  
14 the amount necessary for subsistence, discuss the customary and  
15 traditional use patterns in that region. Discussed how to  
16 provide for a subsistence opportunity by residents in the  
17 region and also looked at whether there might be an opportunity  
18 for non-subsistence take, and if it was such that there would  
19 animals surplus to what was necessary for subsistence, what  
20 type of hunt might be amenable to local users as well as to  
21 non-local users.

22  
23 And with that the Game Board had local Advisory  
24 Committee involvement, several agency staff were also present,  
25 and they acted upon and adopted a proposal that is in our  
26 regulation book and directed the staff to not initiate that  
27 hunt structure unless there was a harvestable surplus of  
28 animals. And once the surveys were done, which were done  
29 recently, then the Department was directed to implement the  
30 hunt structure consistent with the allowable take. And as you  
31 know, that did provide for subsistence opportunity by Alaska  
32 residents, and in the case of the DeLongs since the subsistence  
33 priority had been applied and it looked like there was still  
34 additional animals that could be taken, then it moved into the  
35 part of the hunt structure that could include non-subsistence  
36 uses.

37  
38 Mr. Chairman, following that, staff presented at the  
39 Regional Council meeting last spring, as well as in discussions  
40 with local residents and Federal staff what this hunt structure  
41 was and indicated that if there was a harvestable surplus that  
42 this is how the hunt would be managed, and that's where we are  
43 today. And we believe that we should go forward with what the  
44 State has outlined, given the process that our Board of Game  
45 went through and the discussion that has been held with the  
46 public up to that time.

47  
48 I wanted to mention that we are in a situation where,  
49 as was mentioned by the biologist, and through discussion with  
50 our biologist and with other biologists, it was determined that

00021

1 there is an allowable harvest, that full curl rams can be taken  
2 and that this is probably a situation where we have bulge, if  
3 you will, of older rams that can be taken. There will likely  
4 be fewer numbers that can be taken next year and then possibly  
5 it might be closed again for several years. And I think that,  
6 as it was mentioned by the Regional Council the other day, it's  
7 a good idea to go ahead with a cooperative management plan on  
8 -- in the anticipation that there may be closures again and  
9 then reopen it.

10  
11 This is a -- it's not like this is a situation where  
12 we'd be able to take this many animals each year for the next  
13 several years, it's a very unique situation. Given that it is  
14 that unique, we think, again, we should go ahead with the State  
15 hunt because it does provide opportunities for subsistence as  
16 well as other uses and also provides opportunity on State  
17 lands.

18  
19 One thing to consider given this age structure of the  
20 population, with these older rams, there does need to be  
21 consideration of the -- as was mentioned, of the interest by  
22 communities in taking these older rams, including communities  
23 that will use aircraft to access these areas to take these full  
24 curl rams under the Federal subsistence hunt.

25  
26 The State hunt had a provision to prohibit the use of  
27 aircraft in the subsistence hunt. We put that in place based  
28 on the findings from the Board of Game in which they discussed  
29 with local people that were present at the meetings the  
30 consideration on whether or not aircraft should be allowed.  
31 And based on what they heard and the deliberations and the  
32 consideration of customary and traditional use patterns in the  
33 area, they put a prohibition on the use of aircraft in the  
34 subsistence hunt.

35  
36 Without that prohibition, as the proposal reads, I  
37 think the Board needs to consider, indeed, what the demand for  
38 taking these full curl rams is, particularly given that 10  
39 communities have C&T use in Unit 23. And all of the North  
40 Slope communities in Unit 26(A) and that there is certainly  
41 aircraft access by residents of many of those communities to  
42 take those animals in the Federal subsistence hunt.

43  
44 And there's -- I think that that leads to another  
45 concern that we have that has to do with when there's any  
46 discussion by Board on reporting requirements and how this hunt  
47 would be monitored. We're particularly concerned that there be  
48 a good system in place for all of these communities given that  
49 we can only take 20 animals out of each of these sheep  
50 populations. And with aircraft access people can fly in and

00022

1 get back out, those animals could be taken rather quickly  
2 whenever this hunt opens up, I assume it would be sometime in  
3 August, it could be as early as tomorrow, based on the  
4 proposal.

5  
6 But, in any case, there's in excess of a dozen  
7 communities where people do have aircraft, they could easily  
8 take these 20 animals in the next few weeks from these  
9 populations. And our concern is that that allowable harvest is  
10 not exceeded, that it's closely monitored and that we have a  
11 good handle on the numbers and I think it'll be important to  
12 have that good monitoring as well a reasonable reporting  
13 requirement with follow up with Federal staff who will be  
14 monitoring the hunt. I think it's going to be necessary for  
15 phone calls or personal visits or whatever it takes to get back  
16 out to these communities to contact the permittees. That you  
17 can't necessarily wait for five or more days for something -- a  
18 harvest report to get returned in the mail. That by the time  
19 you received something on paper in the mail you may well have  
20 exceeded the allowable harvest. So I think it's going to be  
21 really important to -- without any kind of restriction on  
22 aircraft that this hunt be closely monitored in the first,  
23 certainly within the first 30 days of the hunt.

24  
25 Mr. Chairman, I think that pretty much concludes my  
26 comments at this time. I do know that our biologist in  
27 Kotzebue is on line and could answer questions. She's been  
28 working with the local residents for many years to help rebuild  
29 these populations and also Susan Georgette from the Subsistence  
30 Division staff could provide any additional information on the  
31 customary use patterns, based on her long-term research in the  
32 region.

33  
34 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Public comments.

37  
38 MR. BOYD: If I may, Mr. Chair, what I am  
39 knowledgeable of with regard to public comments is that we have  
40 Mr. Jake Jacobsen on line who could provide public comments,  
41 Mr. Matt Wolf and perhaps Mr. Bob Holt and Mr. Rod Arno. I  
42 don't know of other members of the public that would want to  
43 comment at this time.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. What's the first  
46 name on your list?

47  
48 MR. BOYD: Mr. Jacobsen.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, let's go.

00023

1 Mr. Jacobsen.

2

3 MR. JACOBSEN: Yes, I'm on.

4

5 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. JACOBSEN: Mr. Chairman, my name is James  
8 E. "Jake" Jacobsen. I was born in the United States, but then  
9 sure also born in this country. My family has roots in this  
10 country as far back prior to the time of the Revolution War.  
11 Many family members have fought, some were maimed and some have  
12 died in wars defending our country, our way of life, our  
13 freedoms and our culture. I'm a veteran. Does any of that  
14 make me a super citizen? No. Can any of that make me a lesser  
15 citizen? I hope not.

16

17 Since I arrived in Alaska in 1967 I have never  
18 considered living anywhere else ever. I have two children, one  
19 born in the Lower 48 and one on foreign soil, whose mother was  
20 Eskimo. I have 10 grand children who were born in Alaska and I  
21 have two new children, age two and four years, who were born in  
22 Kodiak, but the new children are not considered to be Native  
23 Alaskans. I'm an Alaskan, no more or less than any of my  
24 family. No more or less than a resident naturalized moments  
25 ago.

26

27 I've spent more of my lifetime in Northwest Alaska, the  
28 Kotzebue region, than anywhere else. I began hunting in the  
29 Brooks Range in 1968 and in 1972 I was licensed as a registered  
30 guide. In 1984 I became a master guide. My first wife was a  
31 Class A assistant guide who passed away during a hunt near our  
32 camp in 1983. My sister's a registered guide. My entire  
33 family, from my grandmother to my children and grand children  
34 have been actively engaged on site in our guiding pursuit till  
35 the present time. Our most valuable personal property out  
36 there is our 80 acre hunting camp and the three buildings we  
37 constructed there ourselves. We have nowhere else to go.

38

39 We agree with the Northwest Regional Subsistence  
40 Advisory Council's proposal which allows a non-subsistence hunt  
41 for full curled Dall rams in the DeLong Mountains. Three of  
42 the non-resident hunters worked with us, who participated in  
43 the permit drawing process in good faith will untimely,  
44 unjustly and unnecessarily be denied their basic rights and  
45 privileges. It is unfair.

46

47 The other non-residents and seven resident Alaskans who  
48 were successful recipients of sheep permits will be similarly  
49 disenfranchised. Our families will be denied our cultural and  
50 traditional pursuits and our annual net income will be reduced

00024

1 by approximately 40 percent. We have no other means of making  
2 up this loss. It is unfair.

3  
4 It seems to me that the honor, accountability and  
5 police powers of the State of Alaska are at stake here. I  
6 trust the State of Alaska and the U.S. Government will protect  
7 us all equally in this and all matters. Recipients of the  
8 drawing permits purchased their licenses, paid their drawing  
9 fees, reasonably expected to hunt if drawn, and since being  
10 issued the permit have spent time, money and emotion on their  
11 trips, ticket and so forth.

12  
13 I represent myself, my family and my booked clients and  
14 have spent time, money and emotion, first and reasonable  
15 expectation of the hunts taking place and secondly in  
16 attempting to ensure that they will, in fact, be allowed to  
17 take place. Those making this proposal ask too much, to late,  
18 with too little consideration for others.

19  
20 My understanding of subsistence hunting is that the  
21 quality of meat, not the size of the trophy is the primary  
22 concern. That statistics in the Georgette/Loon work are  
23 clearly not based on pursuits of full curl or larger rams, they  
24 were based on hunts for any sheep. In a Georgette/Loon survey  
25 local residents stated that they did not like to eat the meet  
26 of Dall rams during or directly after winter as it was tough,  
27 had no fat and so forth. They're correct.

28  
29 The number of sheep given as needed for subsistence, in  
30 my estimation, is clearly inflated, based on self-serving  
31 hearsay and unlawful, that is unreported out of season  
32 harvesting activities in the past. In the meeting of  
33 Wednesday, July 29, 1998, the Chairman of the local Advisory  
34 Committee stated that he felt the total number of sheep given  
35 as need for subsistence, 58, is too low.

36  
37 I know that Game Management Unit 23 has never supported  
38 the annual harvest of 50 or 60 sheep and protest the figures.  
39 It's clear, though, if things go this way, the number of sheep  
40 needed will escalate and remain beyond a supportable harvest,  
41 thereby, never allowing anyone but local (indiscernible) to  
42 hunt sheep in GMU 23 and 26(A) West.

43  
44 In the meeting of 29 July, aircraft were advocated as a  
45 means of transportation for at least the DeLong Mountains.  
46 Percentages wee quoted in Wednesday's meeting which were drawn  
47 from the State of Alaska information which were complied from  
48 statewide sport hunting of sheep, not subsistence hunting.  
49 Aircraft should not be allowed as transportation for  
50 subsistence.



00025

1 Discussion took place regarding the horns. If the hunt  
2 is to be for full curl or bigger rams, the horns should be  
3 surrendered to the biologist for aging and so forth.  
4 Furthermore, unless this is to become a local and exclusive  
5 trophy hunt, after studied by biologists, the horns should be  
6 retained by the State or the horn's trophy value destroyed by  
7 the biologist.

8  
9 For a proposal, such as the one before you now, to have  
10 legitimacy worthy of consideration by your Board, it should  
11 have been made prior to the State of Alaska's (phone noise) for  
12 sheep permit applications. This proposal does not involve any  
13 threat to the overall health of the sheep population involved.  
14 There is no emergency.

15  
16 This proposal is a test of power and exclusivity of  
17 access to public property on public lands. Public trust, equal  
18 access to the public trust properties on public land should  
19 ensure your denial of this proposal. More over, if you grant  
20 this proposal no specie of fish or game, not hunting or fishing  
21 pursuit in Alaska will be safe from similar actions.

22  
23 I ask that you deny the Northwest Arctic Regional  
24 Subsistence Council's proposal. I ask that you not allow any  
25 use of aircraft in subsistence sheep hunting. I ask that for  
26 subsistence sheep hunts you require a presentation of horns to  
27 biologists for their study and thereafter, retention by the  
28 State or destruction of the horn's trophy value by the  
29 biologist. I ask that you honor the sheep permits issued by  
30 the State of Alaska for this 1998 hunt in the DeLong Mountains.  
31 And finally, I ask that you issue your decision today, as the  
32 non-subsistence sheep season is scheduled to begin on August  
33 10th, one week from Monday.

34  
35 And I thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Who's next,  
38 Tom?

39  
40 MR. BOYD: Mr. Matt Wolf.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Matt.

43  
44 MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is Matt Wolf  
45 of North American Wild Sheep. I testified Wednesday the 29th,  
46 my comments should be on record. I will say that I'm opposed  
47 to the 98-04 Northwest Arctic Subsistence on many ground that  
48 were just stated Mr. Jake Jacobsen at this time. And I wish  
49 the Board would honor the permits issued by the State for the  
50 use by local residents and non-residents alike.

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Next,

4 Mr. Boyd.

5

6 MR. BOYD: Yes, I think Mr. Arno, Mr. Rod Arno,  
7 who is in the room here.

8

9 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.

10

11 MR. ARNO: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, my name is Rod  
12 Arno, I'm President of the Alaska Outdoor Council, a coalition  
13 of over 10,000 Alaskan who choose to hunt and fish and access  
14 public as well as private lands in the State of Alaska. The  
15 Outdoor Council opposes Special Action 98-04 and the  
16 recommendation by the Northwest Arctic Regional Council to  
17 close sheep hunting in these areas to subsistence only.

18

19 This action is a prime example of why the Outdoor  
20 Council continues to work towards major changes in Title VIII  
21 of ANILCA. And in this case, these Federal public lands, and  
22 if there's no possibility of non-resident and resident  
23 Alaskans, on a very limited basis, to access these areas for  
24 hunting of a public trust asset, these Dall sheep, that it's  
25 doing a real disservice to what conservation means.  
26 Conservation in a democracy is shown to be the greatest  
27 government for conservation of natural resources, and that is  
28 achieved when people have an ownership in this public property  
29 and not an exclusive use.

30

31 For 250,000 years humans have fought allocation issues  
32 and moved to new areas to find -- to hunt natural resources, we  
33 have an opportunity here with what's been worked out by the  
34 State to allow a very minimal number of residents on a permit  
35 basis and non-residents on a permit basis to continue to have  
36 the opportunity to access this population. And we believe in  
37 the Council that it should be so.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Next.

42

43 MR. BOYD: It's not clear to me if Mr. Holt  
44 would like to speak, Mr. Chair.

45

46 MR. HOLT: Yeah, this is Robb Holt, President  
47 of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association and having just  
48 become aware of this recently, I've got some comments, not as  
49 well prepared as the others, but just some comments based on  
50 what I've heard here this morning.

00027

1           One thing that is of interest to me is that you're  
2 considering allowing the use of aircraft for subsistence use on  
3 a Federal subsistence hunt. Would this be similarly allowed in  
4 Gates of the Arctic National Park? And if not, why not?

5  
6           MR. BOYD: We have a response, Mr. Chair,  
7 Mr. Sandy Rabinowitch is going to.....

8  
9           CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Sandy.

10  
11           MR. RABINOWITCH: This is Sandy Rabinowitch of  
12 the National Park Service. Presently the preserve lands in the  
13 Noatak Preserve and the Gates of the Arctic Preserve are both  
14 opened to aircraft use, they would remain so. Not opened in  
15 the Gates of the Arctic Park and would remain so, not opened in  
16 for the Park portion.

17  
18           MR. HOLT: Well, I guess my consideration is  
19 that this seems to be like a significant deviation from the  
20 idea of disallowing aircraft use for subsistence. And with the  
21 -- am I correct in assuming that the season that the Council is  
22 asking for runs from August 10th to April 1st; is that what it  
23 was?

24  
25           MR. BOYD: If I may, Mr. Chair. The Council  
26 has requested a season from August 1 to April 1.

27  
28           MR. HOLT: Okay, August 1st to April 1st.  
29 Would they not be just as successful using snowmachines later  
30 on as -- I guess what I'm looking for here is a way for this  
31 Council to be a little bit creative, which is, I think, is  
32 going to have to be the direction that all of us go in as the  
33 future wears on in the Federal Subsistence Board works the way  
34 that it does. It looks to me like there's an opportunity to  
35 allow for both uses, but if you allow the use of aircraft by  
36 subsistence hunters starting August 1st to take this surplus of  
37 older rams, then clearly the non-subsistence uses are going to  
38 get cut out.

39  
40           Is this Board amenable to the idea of creative  
41 solutions or do you have to just stick strictly to the  
42 proposal?

43  
44           CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Do you have testimony  
45 you wish to give here?

46  
47           MR. HOLT: Yeah, I guess that was it. I guess  
48 my testimony is that I believe that the subsistence users and  
49 the non-subsistence users, based on what I've heard here this  
50 morning can both be met, but not currently as the proposal is

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1 stated. And I would encourage the Board to take creative  
2 measures to try take everybody into consideration.

3

4 And I appreciate the opportunity to give you my  
5 comments, thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Is there any additional  
8 public testimony?

9

10 MR. BOYD: Mr.....

11  
12 MR. JACOBSEN: One request.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Hello.

15  
16 MR. JACOBSEN: Hello.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: What do you want?

19  
20 MR. JACOBSEN: Mr. Chairman, this Jake  
21 Jacobsen, my phone line has been interrupted intermittently on  
22 this conference. I do ask that you do have someone from the --  
23 someone responsible to send me a copy of the minutes of this  
24 meeting, please, sir.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Tom, you have a record  
27 of that request?

28  
29 MR. BOYD: Yes, we do.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

32  
33 MR. JACOBSEN: Thank you.

34  
35 MR. REGLIN: Mr. Chairman, may I speak for a  
36 moment?

37  
38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Who's this?

39  
40 MR. REGLIN: This is Wayne Reglin, I'm the  
41 Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation. I have just  
42 a couple brief comments to make. I.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: You were not present  
45 during the State's portion of these comments?

46  
47 MR. REGLIN: I didn't know -- I missed the  
48 opportunity to do that.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Oh, go ahead,

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1 Mr. Reglin, carry on.

2

3 (Pause)

4 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Reglin, are you  
5 there? Did we lose him?

6

7 MR. BOYD: Mr. Reglin, are you there?

8

9 MR. REGLIN: Yes, I am. Yes, I'm here.

10

11 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Well, go ahead.

12

13 MR. REGLIN: I was going -- I've said that our  
14 State -- the State began the process about 10 months ago of  
15 developing the seasons that we have now on our books. Our  
16 biologists and our Board of Game worked very diligently with  
17 the local hunters and with the Federal agencies and the Federal  
18 biologists and we thought we had come up with a very fair and  
19 equitable allocation system that did meet the subsistence need  
20 and allowed a small harvest by the recreational users. Based  
21 on that and no (phone cut out) problem, we went ahead and held  
22 our drawing for these permits and we've issued them to the  
23 hunters. We feel that if the Federal agencies didn't agree  
24 with our plan they should have said so long, long ago because  
25 you did participate in our meetings.

26

27 And one other comment I have is, I feel that we made  
28 our -- our Board made an extremely conscientious decision to  
29 say that the amount necessary for subsistence was 18 to 43 in  
30 the Baird Mountains and up to nine in the DeLong Mountains.  
31 (Phone cut out) disingenuous at this late date to know say we  
32 need to combine those two populations into one and say that the  
33 amount needed for subsistence is higher than that. We have  
34 always managed these herds, since before statehood, as separate  
35 populations. (Phone cut out) have no biological data to show  
36 that they ever mingle with each other. I'm not saying they  
37 never have, but to do so they have to cross the Noatak River  
38 and that would be rough for them.

39

40 So I guess all I would say, in conclusion, is that I  
41 would certainly hope that the Federal Subsistence Board doesn't  
42 change the rules at this late date in the game. And I also  
43 want to say that it's not a foregone conclusion that the State  
44 will close our season if you do accept this proposal, we will  
45 look at all of our options very closely. But I'm not telling  
46 you ahead of time we would close the State season because we  
47 haven't made that decision yet.

48

49 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Reglin.  
50 I think just for pure technical purposes, I will point out that

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1 this is not a Federal proposal, this proposal was brought  
2 forward by the Regional Council, it's not necessarily a case  
3 that our Federal workers are objecting to your State process.  
4 We're merely considering a proposal brought to us by the  
5 Regional Council.

6  
7 Is there any other State comment?

8  
9 MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, this is Tom again. We  
10 have Kathy Swiderski in the room who is with the State Attorney  
11 General's office and wishes to make a statement.

12  
13 MS. SWIDERSKI: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you.  
14 This is Kathy Swiderski from the Alaska Attorney General's  
15 office. I had just one or two just very brief comments about  
16 process and they would follow up on just what's come up. One  
17 is that this is a Special Action Request (voice activated mike  
18 cutting out) has regulations that address how these are to be  
19 taken up and also has a policy that explains (cut out)  
20 regulations.

21  
22 In general that policy says that the Board will take up  
23 Special Actions, essentially if there is something new or  
24 unanticipated or a sudden change. In the State's view that  
25 there really hasn't been any sudden or unanticipated change in  
26 this hunt. The State had planned for and implemented this hunt  
27 in a very orderly and public process.

28  
29 And that leads to the next point, which is purely a  
30 clarification that, and I think it was presented to you that  
31 the Board of Game's action in October was a tentative action  
32 and that is not accurate. The Board of Game in its October  
33 meeting, my understanding is that they adopted a regulation  
34 that was implemented and the only thing that was uncertain  
35 about it was what the population would be. And that was later  
36 clarified (cut out).

37  
38 Those are essentially the two points that I wanted to  
39 clarify and thank you very much.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Regional  
42 Council comments.

43  
44 MR. BOYD: We have Mr. Willie Goodwin here in  
45 the room with us, Mr. Chair, who is going to speak.

46  
47 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name  
48 is Willie Goodwin, I'm the Chairman of the Northwest Arctic  
49 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. First of all, I want to  
50 thank you for the Board's consideration of this request and the

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1 opportunity to speak before you.

2

3 I want to briefly -- or I want to get into the process  
4 that took us to this point in which I have been involved in.  
5 Throughout the years, since the closure of the sheep, I've had  
6 numerous discussions with the biologist in Kotzebue and my own  
7 personal views are that I've always felt that as long as the  
8 sheep numbers were down, the population wasn't healthy, that it  
9 should be closed to all hunting. And I think the people in the  
10 region have felt like that. They've been waiting patiently for  
11 seven years to hunt in the Bairds and four years in the  
12 DeLongs.

13

14 The process that we got to here, in late June, the  
15 biologists for both the State -- for the Park Service and the  
16 State of Alaska met informally with the various Advisory Fish  
17 and Game members in Kotzebue, and I was present from the  
18 Regional Advisory Council. The consensus was that we would not  
19 propose a hunt or the State shouldn't hunt until we knew what  
20 the population levels were, and they reported that in July that  
21 the survey would be completed and at that time we would discuss  
22 the issue.

23

24 July 20, we had another meeting, basically with the  
25 same people, but in addition to those people we got  
26 representatives from Kivalina and Noatak and two other members  
27 of the Regional Advisory Council were also present at that  
28 meeting. There we were discussing the State's hunt, and my  
29 first reaction was, after the survey numbers were given to us  
30 in that meeting was that we shouldn't hunt, and that's what I  
31 said. Because we've always felt and made it know that unless  
32 the numbers were between 450 and 600 sheep that there shouldn't  
33 be a hunt.

34

35 So the allocation issue came up. And, of course, we,  
36 the local members there, disagreed with the State in its  
37 assessment that up to nine sheep can be harvested or had been  
38 harvested traditionally by the local people. I brought out the  
39 fact that our C&T is for the whole region, for the whole unit  
40 and I felt that the numbers should be combined and until the  
41 numbers are reach that other user groups can be afforded the  
42 opportunity to hunt.

43

44 Also at that meeting it was pointed out to us that  
45 while the numbers are only about 405 that were counted this  
46 year. In fact, that's a decrease from last year. It was  
47 reported that there are harvestable rams and ewes in the  
48 DeLongs and harvestable rams in the Bairds that are going to be  
49 of old age and probably will die of natural causes, they should  
50 be harvested by the people.

00032

1           It was at that time that we decided that the approach  
2 to take was to have the Regional Council propose a Special  
3 Action to grant all the harvestable rams to the subsistence  
4 users in the region. The biologists agreed with that. In  
5 fact, they suggested that ewes could be taken in the DeLongs,  
6 but the local people felt at that meeting that in order for us  
7 to keep the population to continue to grow, that we wouldn't  
8 harvest any of the ewes.

9  
10           July 21st, we had an informal Regional Advisory Council  
11 meeting with -- three members were present and we had in  
12 teleconference, and also on the teleconference there was the  
13 staff members from the Subsistence Division here. At that time  
14 we decided to submit, formally, a request for this Special  
15 action. After further discussions with members of the staff  
16 here and the Solicitor's office it was felt that we should  
17 formally call a Regional Advisory Council meeting, we did so.

18  
19           We had the meeting on Wednesday, we were pleased with  
20 the staff reports that were presented, the biological analysis  
21 by the State and Federal government. The cultural analysis by  
22 the staff here and also we had an opportunity for public  
23 comment, for State comments. We had some objections, like you  
24 heard, from various people that were tied in by teleconference,  
25 but I might at that all the people that were there locally were  
26 in favor of the proposed action. The local support didn't have  
27 any problem with the aircraft use, they didn't see a need for  
28 bringing the horns to be reported. There was some discussion  
29 in devaluing the horns for trophy value, they didn't see that  
30 as a need, but I believe that the Park Service has a  
31 requirement that if you're going to go in and get animals you  
32 got to bring the horns in too. So we'll have to do that  
33 anyway.

34  
35           Like I said the people in the region have waited  
36 patiently to hunt and I think the opportune time is now to hunt  
37 because according to the biologists with the missing age group  
38 in the population that it's very possible that we may not be  
39 able to hunt again until the year 2005, until the population  
40 trends start to increase. So the opportunity is there for the  
41 local people to harvest the sheep and that's what we're asking  
42 for in this Special Action.

43  
44           To get into, more specifically, in the aircraft use.  
45 There are a number of local people in Kotzebue, there are a  
46 number in Kiana and in also in Noatak that have aircraft that  
47 would be able to use their aircraft to harvest the sheep and it  
48 was felt by the Regional Advisory Council that this is not an  
49 issue, that unless there is a problem then we would -- we had,  
50 in that meeting, asked the Park Service to use its regulatory



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1 authority to limit the access by aircraft.

2

3 The State's objection, I might point out, is that, yes,  
4 we did agree with the State in past years not to have aircraft  
5 use for subsistence users mainly because all of the residents  
6 in the State of Alaska have an opportunity to come up and hunt,  
7 that why the limitation -- we agreed with the limitation, even  
8 for our own people, knowing that the numbers aren't there for  
9 anybody to come up and hunt and thereby denying us, the people  
10 that live in that area, the right to hunt the animals.

11

12 Mr. Chairman, also I'd like to point out that with the  
13 State proposal everybody in Alaska would be eligible to hunt  
14 sheep if the Federal Board did not take any action anybody can  
15 come up and go hunt sheep. We feel that it's appropriate that  
16 the Federal Board take action in light of the fact that the  
17 population numbers are not there, there's clearly a shortage of  
18 animals, and clearly ANILCA says that the priorities should go  
19 to subsistence user.

20

21 Mr. Chairman, also in that meeting I point out the fact  
22 and ask the Park Service to consider a management plan for the  
23 recovery and also the management of sheep in the Park lands as  
24 a priority. And I understood from them that there was a  
25 proposal put in, in 1996, and therefore I'm asking the Federal  
26 Board if that request can be passed on to the Park Service as a  
27 priority so that we may not come into this situation again.  
28 And, of course, at that time public comment will allow all the  
29 other users groups to make any suggestions they want into the  
30 plan and also that the State is also is willing work with us,  
31 we welcome the idea to develop such a plan.

32

33 Mr. Chairman, also it's unfortunate, I feel, that the  
34 State Board of Game did take action in light of the fact that  
35 we've always said in the local areas that until the sheep  
36 numbers are there we should not hunt any sheep, whether it's  
37 local or for any other uses. And I believe that when the  
38 numbers were at a borderline it may be that the Board of Game  
39 felt that it's time to allow a hunt, but there again, we didn't  
40 think it's right making a decision until the survey numbers  
41 came in in July.

42

43 Mr. Chairman, I realize that this is very political  
44 decision that's being made now or going to be made. However,  
45 the Regional Advisory Council is asking that you do pass this  
46 proposal as written. I do know that a concern that it's  
47 politically the wrong time possibly to make a decision in light  
48 of the fact of the Legislature not coming into compliance with  
49 ANILCA, and I might add that it's not the Federal government's  
50 fault here. We believe that ANILCA was very specific in

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1 passing the legislation to make subsistence a priority in time  
2 of shortage.

3  
4 A couple of points I'd like to point out from the  
5 State's comments. I already pointed out the way that the hunt  
6 would be managed would be that everybody in Alaska would be  
7 eligible to hunt sheep up there. I'd also like to point out  
8 that -- and I did point out the aircraft use that's prohibited  
9 in the State hunt.

10  
11 Mr. Chairman, even though this may be politically the  
12 wrong time, ANILCA was passed in 1980; when is the right time?  
13 I think the time is now and this is an example of what ANILCA  
14 will do for rural Alaskans.

15  
16 If you have any questions or any of the Board members  
17 have any question on what I have reported from the Regional  
18 Advisory Council I'd be glad to answer any questions.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: I don't have any  
21 questions, Mr. Goodwin, but I do have a comment with regard to  
22 your own political comments. And rest assured that while some  
23 of the things that we wrestle with do have political overtones  
24 they certainly don't bear a factor in our deliberations. I  
25 just wanted to make that perfectly clear to you.

26  
27 Are there any questions of Mr. Goodwin?

28  
29 MR. WOLF: Yes, this is Matt Wolf.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: No, from Board members,  
32 I'm sorry.

33  
34 MR. WOLF: Okay.

35  
36 MR. BOYD: None in the room, Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Any additional Regional  
39 Council comments?

40  
41 MR. GOODWIN: There's no one else here,  
42 Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the opportunity.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Staff  
45 Committee recommendations.

46  
47 MR. BOYD: Yes, Mr. Chair, prior to me giving  
48 the Staff Committee recommendation I think it would be  
49 important to clarify and sort of summarize the public notice  
50 and public involvement that we followed in this process, just

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1 for the record. And Taylor Brelsford is going to help with  
2 that.

3  
4 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In  
5 order to make sure that the written is as complete as possible,  
6 let me also make note that one written comment from a member of  
7 the public was received for the Board's consideration, that is  
8 summarized in the material before you. And additionally I  
9 received a phone call from a North Slope Regional Advisory  
10 Council member, Ray Koonik, from Point Hope, he wanted to make  
11 sure the Board was aware of testimony at the Barrow meeting  
12 concerning this is in the DeLong Mountains. I don't think we  
13 need to repeat those, but they should be noted on the record.

14  
15 More specifically, in regard to the public notice and  
16 public involvement, this is a question -- the proposed  
17 regulatory actions before you were raised very recently and as  
18 a consequence the Board has faced tension between expediting  
19 decision, making a timely decision, given all of the interests  
20 in the proposed season start date of August 1st, while at the  
21 same time providing appropriate and adequate public involvement  
22 and public notice.

23  
24 I'd like to make matter of record the steps that the  
25 Board has directed and that the staff have implemented. In  
26 regard to the Regional Council meeting held on Wednesday, July  
27 29th, local poster were provided and posted in all of the  
28 affected communities in the region, that is to include both the  
29 Kotzebue Sound area of Unit 23 and also the affected North  
30 Slope communities. The Federal field stations received those  
31 posters to post in the communities and individual key contacts  
32 in each village also received those on Friday, July 24th.

33  
34 The Federal Advisory Committee Act required 15 days  
35 notice for a public meeting of a Regional Advisory Council.  
36 There is provision for expedited public notice under special  
37 circumstances. The Federal Register notice was posted and the  
38 special circumstances were included in that notice, so we  
39 believe we have met the FACA requirement to have a validly  
40 noticed Regional Advisory Council meeting which was held  
41 Wednesday, July 29th.

42  
43 Pubic service announcements were posted to the public  
44 radio and cable TV within Kotzebue and Barrow. Direct contact  
45 was made with known interested public members to ensure that  
46 they were aware of the public meeting and able to participate  
47 by teleconference. And, as noted, a number public from outside  
48 of the region were able to be involved on teleconference during  
49 the meeting.

50

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1 Finally, a specific effort was made to ensure that the  
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game was aware of the meeting and  
3 had ample opportunity to participate by teleconference and/or  
4 on site at their discretion.

5  
6 Turning now to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting  
7 for today. The statewide public notice consisted of a press  
8 release which was issued on Tuesday, July 28th. That was  
9 distributed to 43 radio stations in the state and to 35 print  
10 journalism outlets, including the statewide news media, the  
11 Anchorage Daily News, the Fairbanks Daily News Miner and so on.  
12 There was a follow-up article the following day, on Wednesday,  
13 July 29th, in the Anchorage Daily News. ADF&G was notified  
14 specifically and was asked to consider contacting the  
15 permittees so that they would have an opportunity to  
16 participate and testify in their own voice, if they chose.  
17 Again direct contact was made with all of the known public  
18 parties who had expressed an interest in participating this  
19 morning, and several are on line and others are with us in the  
20 room.

21  
22 In short, I think the Board has made an appropriate  
23 balance between an expedited decision and an adequate effort at  
24 public notice. Our regulations require specifically in regard  
25 to a Special Action, two things. One is consultation with the  
26 State, which I believe has been accomplished. And, secondly  
27 "Adequate notice and opportunity to comment" for the public,  
28 and I believe we've done an appropriate level of effort in that  
29 respect as well.

30  
31 I appreciate the opportunity to make that part of the  
32 record.

33  
34 MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, this is Tom Boyd again.  
35 The Staff Committee recommends adopting the Special Action  
36 Request with essentially three modifications.

37  
38 The first modification would be to have a start date of  
39 August 20th as opposed to August 1st. The purpose of that  
40 start date would be to provide ample time for the National Park  
41 Service to take the appropriate administrative actions to  
42 ensure that a system is in place for timely harvest reporting.

43  
44 The second modification is to add a portion of Unit  
45 26(A) which that portion -- I won't read the detailed  
46 description of that, but it's essentially that portion of 26(A)  
47 that is in the DeLong Mountains, so that when I speak later to  
48 the DeLong Mountains and the Baird Mountains -- or the DeLong  
49 Mountains, the DeLong Mountains will include a portion of  
50 26(A).

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1           The third modification would essentially split the  
2 entire season, August 20 to April 1st into two segments. The  
3 first segment being August 20 to September 20 and the second  
4 segment being from September 21 to April 1. The reason that  
5 the Staff Committee felt obliged to recommend splitting the  
6 season was to just to ensure an equitable distribution of  
7 harvests. The concern of aircraft access was discussed at  
8 length, I think we reasoned that if we allowed a continuous  
9 season that the entire recommended harvest quota could be taken  
10 early by those use aircraft. So, in essence, for both the  
11 Baird and DeLong Mountains we would recommend from August 20 to  
12 September 20 that the season be closed when 10 sheep are taken  
13 in each, the DeLong and Baird Mountains, so that's a total of  
14 20 sheep. And then from September 21 to April 1 that the  
15 remainder of the total 40 harvests be taken.

16  
17           That is the Staff Committee recommendation. The  
18 rationale is that the sheep population in these mountain ranges  
19 have been below historic levels due to low lamb production and  
20 survival. This has resulted in closed seasons for several  
21 years. State and Federal biologists agree that there is now a  
22 small, but harvestable surplus of large rams. The Alaska Board  
23 of Game has examined the customary and traditional harvest of  
24 communities in the area; however, the Regional Council believes  
25 that the customary and traditional use of the area should be  
26 considered for the Unit as a whole, rather than divided by  
27 mountain range. There is presently a C&T determination in  
28 Federal Subsistence Management regulations. The local users  
29 have expressed a strong desire to harvest sheep and recognize  
30 that this harvest strategy is conservative and not expected to  
31 hinder growth of the population. Staff Committee noted that  
32 the Northwest Arctic Regional Council supports a hunt and also  
33 the development of a cooperative management plan. The  
34 separation of the season into two segments in each mountain  
35 range provides equitable access opportunities for all  
36 subsistence users in the region.

37  
38           That's the Staff Committee report, Mr. Chair.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Okay, are we  
41 ready to advance to Board deliberation?

42  
43                   MR. BOYD: Let me pause a second and add,  
44 because you didn't observe this, Mr. Chair, that Mr. Dick  
45 Pospahala is representing the Fish and Wildlife Service on this  
46 issue and has been present for the entire deliberation of this  
47 issue.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, thank you. Ready  
50 to advance this to Board deliberation.

00038

1 MR. BOYD: I'm receiving indication that there  
2 may be some questions from Board members to the staff or to  
3 others.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: That's fine.  
6

7 MR. POSPAHALA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is Dick  
8 Pospahala, I guess I'd like to address an initial question, at  
9 least, to the staff report. Typically when this Board has been  
10 faced with a situation of allocating a very limited subsistence  
11 harvest we've done it based on an allocation of permits or  
12 harvest opportunities among the qualifying communities that are  
13 of interest. I think we did that with musk-ox season on the  
14 Seward Peninsula and, again, I think we took action earlier  
15 today to do that with the caribou on the Alaska Peninsula. Why  
16 isn't that there wasn't consideration given to that in (cut  
17 out).....

18  
19 MS. DEWHURST: It wasn't ever requested. It's  
20 the first time the issue has been brought up.

21  
22 MR. POSPAHALA: Because that's going to be a  
23 concern that I'll carry forward in the deliberation, I guess,  
24 is that assuming that we get to a point where this ends up  
25 being strictly a subsistence harvest season, if we want to  
26 assure that the allocation is distributed equitably among the  
27 villages that have (cut out) customary and traditional use  
28 opportunity, I think I'd prefer that type of allocation rather  
29 than try to handle it with method and means application.

30  
31 MR. BOYD: I guess Mr. Anderson is going to  
32 speak, Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.  
35

36 MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Chair, if I may -- just so  
37 I'm clear on the sequence of events that have occurred. I  
38 understand from the testimony here that the staff.....

39  
40 REPORTER: Excuse me, Mr. Anderson. You have  
41 to speak directly into the mike because those are very  
42 sensitive voice activated and I can't pick it up unless you  
43 talking into it.

44  
45 MR. ANDERSON: Am I loud enough now?

46  
47 REPORTER: Thank you.

48  
49 MR. ANDERSON: Some day I'll learn. Okay.  
50 From the record and testimony today, I understand that the

00039

1 Board of Game has been working for some time on this regulation  
2 -- on this hunt. But during the course of, at least, the last  
3 10 months there was no certainty that this actually would occur  
4 until some point in the recent past when, if I'm not mistaken,  
5 the final population survey data were available to indicate  
6 that there were enough animals there to have a harvestable  
7 surplus of some sort or another. That's what I heard, if I'm  
8 not mistaken.

9  
10 So the first question is, is that your understanding?  
11 And, secondly, when, in fact, was that survey data available?  
12

13 MS. DEWHURST: The question might be better  
14 answered by the State, but I'll attempt and the State can  
15 correct me. After the Game Board met it technically then was  
16 put on the book -- the hunt was changed on the books, the State  
17 books. Of course the State book didn't come out until I think  
18 about a couple of months ago, officially. But it was -- the  
19 regulation was officially changed setting up the -- the  
20 regulation has been on the book the whole time, the hunt was  
21 only closed by emergency order on an annual basis.  
22

23 There's always been a hunt on the books, on the State  
24 regulations. And they just changed the type of hunt that was  
25 on the books to this Tier I combination with a drawing permit.  
26 So it's always been there and they just changed the type of  
27 hunt. And they just, in the past, closed with emergency order  
28 and there was talk this year that they wouldn't close it,  
29 basically, depending on the results of the survey. The survey  
30 was conducted in mid-July and the results were available  
31 around, I don't know, about the 17th or so, and it was a  
32 combination Park Service/ADF&G survey.  
33

34 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. So then given that this  
35 was a possibility there was no assurance that anything was  
36 going to occur differently than it occurred in the past, except  
37 for.....  
38

39 MS. DEWHURST: The only difference was it was  
40 published for the drawing permits. They did go ahead and  
41 proceed and publish that and receive applicants and everything  
42 else.  
43

44 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. And so as of about the  
45 17th of July we finally had definitive information on -- which  
46 was approximately two weeks ago?  
47

48 MS. DEWHURST: Correct.  
49

50 MR. ANDERSON: And the State hunting

00040

1 regulations published to the public prior to or after June  
2 1998?

3  
4 MS. DEWHURST: I -- maybe somebody from the  
5 State could -- when did the State book come out?

6  
7 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask  
8 Steve Peterson, if he's still on line, if he'd let us know when  
9 these were published and when the booklets came out.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Peterson.

12  
13 MR. PETERSON: Steve Peterson in Juneau. The  
14 book was published in June, it's effective July 1.

15  
16 MS. ANDREWS: And, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to  
17 clarify a time frame regarding Mr. Anderson's question.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead.

20  
21 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you. Mr. Anderson, the  
22 Board of Game adopted this, as we said, in October '97 and  
23 that's when the language of the proposal was signed off on by  
24 the Board and then the actual regulatory language was put  
25 together and submitted through Department of Law and the  
26 Lieutenant Governor's office to meet our publishing  
27 requirements.

28  
29 What is different is that the hunt structure is  
30 different than the previous regulation that had been on the  
31 books. We talked about that and how the Board gave  
32 consideration under the new subsistence statute from 1992, to  
33 implement that consistent with their statutory requirements to  
34 evaluate the manageable sheep population, and that's why we've  
35 got two areas that we manage and have managed as distinct and  
36 separate populations. The Board of Game is required to  
37 identify for each population what amount of the population is  
38 necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence  
39 uses. And that's a procedure that the Board went through at  
40 their October meeting.

41  
42 So that's one thing that's different, it wasn't that  
43 they were just going back to previous subsistence and  
44 non-subsistence regulations that were on the books. During  
45 that consideration they did discuss if there was any  
46 harvestable surplus that would be beyond the amount necessary for  
47 subsistence, how a hunt should be structured and then that's  
48 how they came up with the proposal -- how they came up with the  
49 regulation that was in the books.

50



00041

1           As I mentioned earlier, and this what I wanted to  
2 underscore, too, the Board directed the staff to issue an  
3 emergency closure again, depending upon the results of the  
4 survey; however, they made it very clear that if there was  
5 sufficient animals to have a hunt, the hunt that they adopted  
6 in the hunt structure is what was on the books, so there was  
7 never any question from that time forward in October as to what  
8 the hunt was going to look like, it was just going to be the  
9 amount that could be taken, which could have been zero had the  
10 results of the survey not shown what they did show or anything  
11 beyond that allowing for subsistence and non-subsistence hunts.

12

13           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14

15                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Additional  
16 Board discussion?

17

18           (No audible responses)

19

20                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Is there any additional  
21 Board discussion?

22

23                   MR. BOYD: I see some Board members doing some  
24 studying, Mr. Chair.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: What time is it? Do we  
27 need to break her for lunch or -- how much more do we have  
28 here?

29

30                   MR. BOYD: We have Board deliberation on this  
31 item then a short work session of the Board. I don't know how  
32 long this will take.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, I'm prepared at  
35 this time to support the Regional Council -- or the Staff  
36 Committee recommendation as modified. Given our mandate and  
37 given the information that became available with regard to the  
38 populations, I see that we have no choice at this particular  
39 time.

40

41                   MR. CAPP: Mr. Chairman.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

44

45                   MR. CAPP: This is Jack Capp of the Forest  
46 Service.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Right.

49

50                   MR. CAPP: I guess I have a question for the

00042

1 staff again. Could they maybe summarize the customary and  
2 traditional determination for sheep in these two ranges and  
3 maybe summarize the past subsistence harvest. I have some of  
4 the figures, but I'm a little confused.

5

6 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Staff.

7

8 MS. MASON: Mr. Chairman, this is Rachel Mason,  
9 I believe I can address Mr. Capp's question. In Unit 23 the  
10 communities that have a positive C&T are Ambler, Kiana,  
11 Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Point Hope and  
12 Shungnak. And Point Lay also has a positive C&T, Point Lay is  
13 in Unit 26(A). In Unit 26 those communities with a positive  
14 C&T are the residents of Unit 26 plus Point Hope and Anaktuvuk  
15 Pass.

16

17 Mr. Capp, did you want specific harvest information on  
18 each of the communities?

19

20 MR. CAPP: This is Jack Capp again. No, that  
21 wouldn't be necessary. I'm just trying to get a handle on the  
22 -- kind of the subsistence need and using past figures reflect  
23 that. Maybe total for each mountain range or combined.

24

25 MS. MASON: Okay. Well, again, this is based  
26 primarily on Georgette and Loon's 1991 study, and from that  
27 study the total annual estimated subsistence harvest for the  
28 Baird Mountains was a range of 18 to 47 and the total estimated  
29 harvest in the DeLong Mountains was a range of zero to nine.  
30 And, again, this was calculated as a range or was presented as  
31 a range because it was based on interviews with communities  
32 members asking for the total community harvest and it was  
33 recognized that this might vary from year to year. And this  
34 study was conducted in 1991 and the period that it covered was  
35 a range of years that were approximately from 1970 to 1990.

36

37 MR. CAPP: Okay, thank you.

38

39 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, this is Elizabeth  
40 Andrews.

41

42 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

43

44 MS. ANDREWS: Yeah, there was a couple of  
45 additional points, I think, need to go along with that  
46 information. And that is that what was just cited to you does  
47 not include any of the harvest by the North Slope communities  
48 that was mentioned. And it also reflects what the harvests  
49 were as reported when the sheep populations were considerably  
50 higher than they presently are.

00043

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

6

7 MR. WILSON: This is Curt Wilson. I have a  
8 suspicion that these discussions may go on for a while and I  
9 think I could focus a little bit better, maybe, if we had a  
10 short break. Say five minutes?

11

12 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, okay, we'll take a  
13 five minute break.

14

15 (Off record - 12:39 p.m.)

16

17 (On record - 12:50 p.m.)

18

19 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Let's go ahead  
20 and call it back to order then. Board discussion?

21

22 (No audible response)

23

24 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Are we ready for an  
25 action?

26

27 MR. BOYD: Mr. Anderson.

28

29 MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a  
30 motion. I will provide my rationale for it in a minute. The  
31 motion, essentially, is to adopt the Staff Committee  
32 recommendation with slight modifications. This would be to  
33 adopt the Special Action Request with slight modifications to  
34 the Staff Committee recommendations.

35

36 And those modifications would be specifically, first  
37 paragraph for sheep Unit 23. The season currently it says  
38 August 20th to September 20th. That would change from August  
39 20th to August 10 and September 20th would change to September  
40 30th. It would then read August 10th to September 30.

41

42 Second paragraph, Unit 23, change September 21st to  
43 October 1st. It would then read October 1st to April 1st. It  
44 will be closed when a total of 20 sheep have been harvested,  
45 including those harvested during the August 10th season.

46

47 Paragraph three, Unit 23, change August 20th to August  
48 10th, September 20th to September 30th.

49

50 Paragraph four, Unit 23, change September 21st to

00044

1 October 1.

2

3 For Unit 26(A), first paragraph of 26(A), change the  
4 dates August 20th to August 10th and September 20th, change to  
5 September 30th. In the second paragraph change the dates  
6 September 21st to October 1st. At the last sentence there in  
7 the dates, including those harvested during the August 10th  
8 season.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, this is Curt Wilson,  
11 I'll second that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. What are you  
14 trying to do here, Paul?

15

16 MR. ANDERSON: I'm recommending that we adopt  
17 the Staff Committee recommendation consisted with the RAC  
18 recommendations. The only thing I'm doing here is moving the  
19 opening date of the season up from August 20th to August 10, as  
20 was discussed earlier. The season date was set August 20th to  
21 allow the Park Service and BLM to get the information out. And  
22 in discussion with our staff, I think we can do that by August  
23 10th and thus give the users a longer period of opportunity.  
24 And then changing the closing dates of the season, September  
25 20th to 30th makes it consistent throughout and balances that  
26 period during which the 10 sheep can be harvested prior to the  
27 opening of the second -- or to the season.

28

29 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Thank you. Is  
30 there any discussion on the motion?

31

32 MR. BOYD: Yes, Mr. Anderson.

33

34 MR. ANDERSON: We heard that this hunt's been  
35 closed for many years, in fact, in parts of this unit for seven  
36 years, in other parts for four, based upon population problems.  
37 We're told the sheep population is currently is well below it's  
38 recent historic highs, the fact is about half of its historic  
39 high at the present time and at or below the population when it  
40 was closed just recently.

41

42 We've heard from testimony here that the need for the  
43 local users for subsistence use for sheep is at or above the  
44 harvestable surplus that's been identified for the Unit 23.  
45 And that circumstance surrounding this situation has been  
46 closed for a long period of time, we're harvesting the older  
47 animals predominantly. It doesn't mean necessarily that this  
48 going to continue as a hunt for a long term. It's, at best, a  
49 unique situation. It will be difficult to predict exactly the  
50 patterns of use that would develop given the opportunity here.

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1 But we do know that there's a significant need in that region  
2 for the sheep for subsistence purposes. We also know, both  
3 from the Federal and State biologists that taking 40 rams in  
4 this (cut out) biologically sound, if you will, that that will  
5 have no practical harm to the population.

6  
7 We also know from testimony at the Regional Advisory  
8 Council meeting that there are a large number of people within  
9 that region that are -- that want to and will hunt, given that  
10 opportunity to do so. It appears to me listening to this  
11 conversation today that the unfortunate situation that we find  
12 ourselves in together as a group (cut out) may contribute. in  
13 large part, to a lack of good communication amongst all of the  
14 different stakeholders in this effort. I feel badly about  
15 that, that we haven't communicated well and that as a result a  
16 very difficult situation to deal with, but I think from a  
17 Federal point of view the law is very clear on what our job is  
18 in managing the Federal Subsistence Program.

19  
20 But, nonetheless, given that and in order to,  
21 hopefully, improve communication and to preclude this kind of a  
22 situation from occurring in the future, I would also propose  
23 that we direct the Federal agencies involved, specifically Park  
24 Service, BLM, along with (cut out) specifically, to take the  
25 lead in developing a Management Plan for the sheep population  
26 in this area that will identify when and how hunting can be  
27 opened in this area. My hope being that given that process  
28 that the State and local subsistence users, Regional Advisory  
29 Council, Federal agencies responsible for these populations on  
30 their lands will, in fact, have an opportunity to communicate  
31 effectively together, to plan together, to cooperate for the  
32 betterment of the herd and for benefit of subsistence users as  
33 well sport down the road.

34  
35 MR. BOYD: Mr. Wilson wants to speak,  
36 Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Carry on.

39  
40 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, I agree with  
41 Mr. Anderson that this has been an unfortunate situation. I  
42 have been sitting -- I have been dealing with this issue now  
43 for a few days and I've been trying to figure out how we could  
44 have kept ourselves from getting in such a rushed situation.  
45 But given the structure of the relationships between the  
46 various parties I can't really -- I haven't been able to see  
47 how we could have avoided getting here, so I tend to support  
48 the idea of directing the two agencies, land managing agencies,  
49 the Park Service and BLM, to come up with some kind of a  
50 Management Plan and to consult with all of the appropriate

00046

1 shareholders in this, particularly the State of Alaska and the  
2 local people and see if we can't figure out a way to keep  
3 something like this from happening again.

4  
5 MR. BOYD: Mr. Pospahala.

6  
7 MR. POSPAHALA: Mr. Chairman, under the  
8 circumstance I'm going to find myself able to support the  
9 motion that's before us from the standpoint that I can accept  
10 the idea that it's necessary to restrict non-subsistence uses  
11 to continue subsistence uses in this instance. I would like to  
12 express my concurrence with Mr. Anderson's view about the  
13 nature and extent of communication that has taken place among  
14 both the Federal and State agencies and also in terms of  
15 involving the Regional Advisory Council, and unknown to me, the  
16 level of interaction on the State's side that's taken place  
17 with the local Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee, that  
18 wasn't part of the record that we were supplied and I'm not  
19 knowledgeable about their involvement in this issue, but would  
20 have preferred considerably more communication at all levels.

21  
22 Lastly, unfortunately, I think time is of the essence  
23 at this point and we're not able to entertain other options for  
24 distributing or allocating the harvest among the user  
25 communities in the local area. But I just want to make it  
26 clear and on the record that I certainly prefer allocations  
27 that are based on the community harvest allocation scheme,  
28 rather than trying to place split seasons and methods and means  
29 as an alternate to provide for an allocation of harvest.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, I think I'd just  
34 like to go ahead and echo those comments, I think we've been in  
35 these kind of difficult situations for the past few years and  
36 by displaying a cooperative approach and by talking amongst  
37 some people that (phone cut out) regarding these various issues  
38 that we covered in the past couple of years, we've been able to  
39 come to fairly well satisfactory conclusions for all parties  
40 involved, so I think, Mr. Anderson, your comments are very to  
41 the point here and it is something that we do need to follow up  
42 on.

43  
44 MR. CESAR: Mr. Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, go ahead.

47  
48 MR. CESAR: I just wanted you to know I'm still  
49 alive down here. And I support the motion. I think that I  
50 echo all the comments before me, I don't think I need to

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1 reiterate them. I do -- I share the same concern, I think, as  
2 Mr. Pospahala in terms of the communities and how we allocate  
3 amongst them and I think we need to give some more thought to  
4 that because it doesn't seem -- it seems that we're  
5 inconsistent with ourselves sometimes, so for all those reasons  
6 I will support the motion.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Any other  
11 Board comments?

12

13 MR. CAPP: This is Jack Capp with the Forest  
14 Service, I agree with the comments that have been made, I think  
15 it's unfortunate we're caught in this timing situation. I  
16 would add that I just want to encourage those involved to  
17 strengthen all we can the reporting and monitoring of the  
18 harvest so we have good figures in front of us.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Additional Board  
23 discussion?

24

25 (No audible responses)

26

27 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Are we prepared for a  
28 vote?

29

30 MR. BOYD: I'm getting positive nods,  
31 Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. All those in  
34 favor of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed same sign.

39

40 (No opposing responses)

41

42 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motion carries.

43

44 MR. BOYD: Mr. Goodwin is signalling he would  
45 like to make a statement, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the  
50 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, I'd

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1 like to thank the Federal Board for acknowledging this proposal  
2 and passing. It's appreciated very much and we will cooperate  
3 with whatever steps are needed to develop a Management Plan.

4

5 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Willie.

6

7 Okay, if there's no further discussion on this point  
8 we'll go ahead and move on in our agenda.

9

10 MR. BOYD: If we could pause for a minute,  
11 Mr. Chair, to sort of clear the teleconference so that we could  
12 continue with the work session. But I would like to just add  
13 that I thank the Park Service for being on line out of Kotzebue  
14 and all of the public that participated today and your  
15 endurance of this process and that concludes, I think, the  
16 public portion of the meeting. If the public would sign off  
17 now, we'll pause for a second and continue with.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: We'll go ahead and take  
20 about a two minute break here while people.....

21

22 MR. BOYD: Okay.

23

24 (Off record approximately 1:23 p.m.)

25

26 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)



00049

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                    )  
4    )ss.  
5 STATE OF ALASKA                                )  
6

7               I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the  
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby  
9 certify:  
10

11               THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 48 contain  
12 a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
13 BOARD PUBLIC MEETING and TELECONFERENCE, taken electronically  
14 by me on the 31st day of July, 1998, beginning at the hour of  
15 10:30 o'clock a.m. at the Offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service, Gordon Watson Conference Room, 1101 E. Tudor Road,  
17 Anchorage, Alaska;  
18

19               THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript  
20 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to  
21 the best of my knowledge and ability;  
22

23               THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party  
24 interested in any way in this action.  
25

26               DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th day of August,  
27 1998.  
28  
29  
30  
31

32    \_\_\_\_\_  
33 Joseph P. Kolasinski  
34 Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00